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# American Federation of Television and Radio Artists

National Office

260 Madison Avenue, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor

New York, NY 10016-2402

Branch of The Associated Actors and Artists of America

AFL-CIO

(212) 532-0800

APR 15 2003

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the SecretaryJohn P. Connolly  
National PresidentGreg J. Hessinger  
National Executive Director

February 19, 2003

Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

02-277

Dear Commissioner Copps:

We continue to be appreciative of your active support for, and efforts on behalf of, performers and artists working in the entertainment and media industries with regard to the FCC's Media Ownership review. We are writing to extend whatever assistance we can offer for the field hearings that you are planning in Seattle and North Carolina.

As you know, AFTRA, on its own and as a member of the Coalition for Program Diversity, was instrumental in coordinating the Media Ownership Forum held at Columbia Law School in January, and the event planned but unfortunately cancelled this week at USC.

As that recent event was under development, AFTRA was concerned about the seeming lack of voices from the community and worker side. For example, the roster of speakers that appeared on the USC website, though not complete, listed five network representatives, several professors and two workers. We think it critical – and believe we heard this same concern from you directly – that people who work in these industries be given an opportunity to share their direct experiences at these hearings as well.

We are also keenly aware that many of our own members must take their own careers into consideration when deciding to speak out on these issues. When we do have people willing to take such risks, we want to embrace them and provide a forum.

As you begin developing field hearings for Seattle and North Carolina, please know that we would be honored to provide the following:

1. Our overall assistance in providing names and logistical contact of potential witnesses, drawing from our national and local membership and executive staff;
2. Additional recommendations of outside experts;

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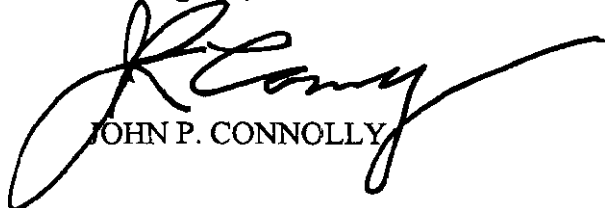
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3. Specific issues that **have** been **and** will **be** raised by management that w **kers** **and** memb  
of the public must be allowed **to** address; **and**

4. Publicity for the events to our membership **and** the general public.

**Our** staff will be contacting your office shortly, and we look forward to continuing this very  
important **work** with you.

Best regards,



JOHN P. CONNOLLY

GREG J. HESSINGER

CC: Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
Dominique Bravo, AFTRA National Director, Legal & Legislative Affairs  
Mickey Gardner, Coalition for Program Diversity  
James Lune, Chair, AFTRA Legislative & Public Affairs Committee